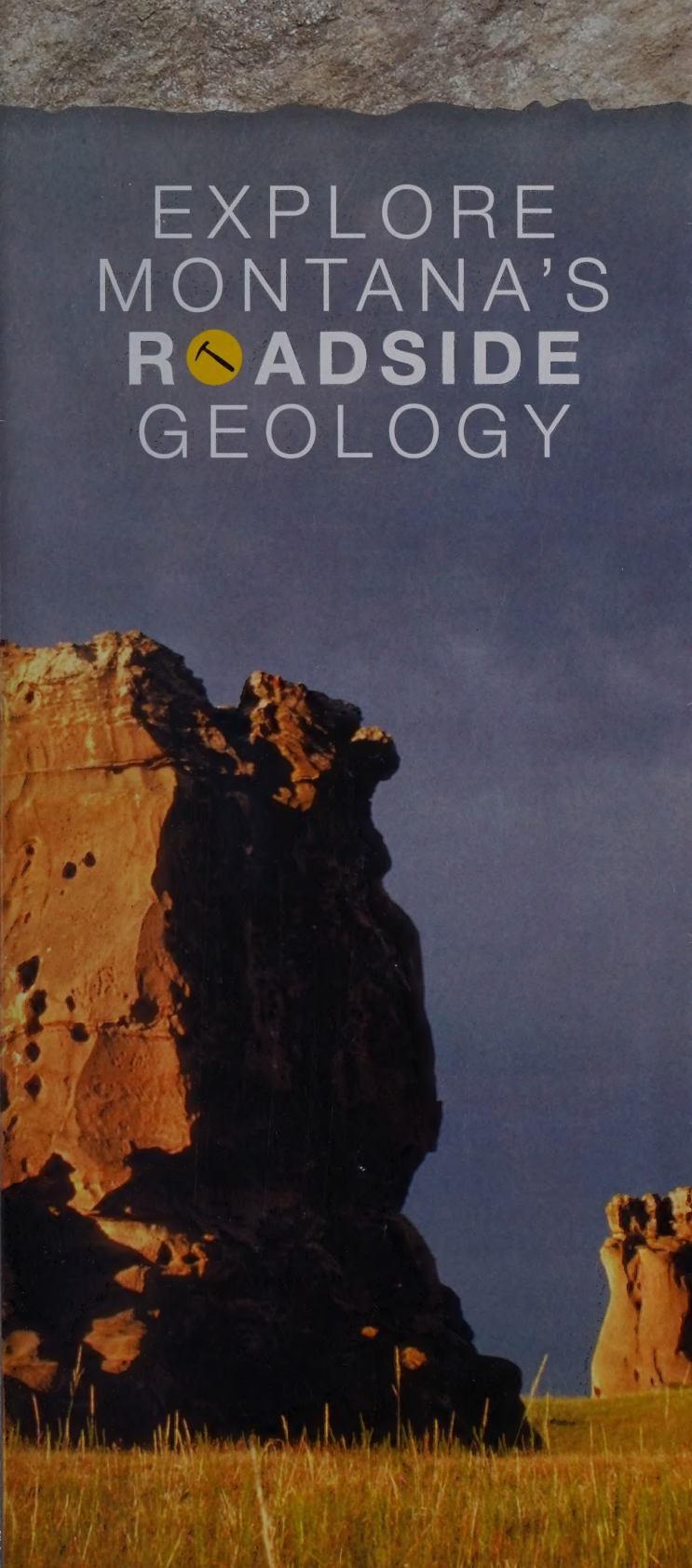
EXPLORE MONTANA'S ROADSIDE GEOLOGY



MONTANA'S GEOLOGY IS THE MAP TO THE PAST

First Lady Nancy Schweitzer and Jag visit the Paleocene Mammals geological marker.

Did you know that much of western Montana was once underneath a large glacial lake created by an ice dam across the Clark Fork River in Idaho? Or that eastern Montana was once the floor of a shallow, tropical sea? Montana's colorful history includes the stories told through geology and is waiting to be discovered as you travel along the highways!

Since 2006, the Montana Department of Transportation and I have installed nearly 50 roadside markers that describe the geologic and paleontological wonders of the Treasure State. The markers are part of the Governor and First Lady's Math and Science Initiative. We invite Montana's youth to discover the many opportunities to learn about science and math in K-12 schools and higher education, find out about career opportunities and explore Montana's splendid surroundings.

Montana's highways are the hallways to our outdoor classroom. As you and your family drive across the state, be sure and stop by a roadside geological marker.

Nancy K Schweitzer

Nancy Schweitzer
First Lady

OUR TOURISM REGIONS

As the fourth-largest state in the country, Montana is a vast playground of picturesque landscapes and charming communities just waiting to be explored. To make it easy, we've divided our majestic state into six different tourism regions, each of them as beautiful as they are unique. This guide leads you to all of the roadside geological marker locations within each region. The rock pick icons on the map show the general location of the markers, while the text descriptions on the other side provide the exact mile marker and GPS coordinate location. Want more information on these unique sites? Go to www.mathscience.mt.gov and start digging!

HOW TO USE THIS MAP

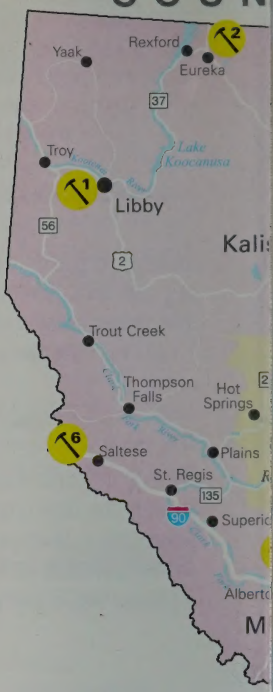
This number represents the number on the pick symbol on the map.

This number represents the closest milepost to the sign.

1. KOOTENAI FALLS
US Highway 2, MP 21
GPS Latitude: 48.4529 Longitude: -115.7695

This is the highway number where the sign is found.

These are the GPS coordinates for the location of the sign.



4.6 billion years ago

PRECAMBRIAN ERA

The Earth formed.

Sediments deposited in ancient seas form the rocks of the Belt Supergroup. (#1)

600 million years ago

PALEOZOIC ERA

The distinctive gray rocks called Madison Limestone are deposited in warm shallow seas. (#10)

250 million years ago

MESOZOIC ERA

A vast inland sea covers eastern Montana. (#27)

Maiasaurs (the state dinosaur) roam the land that is now Montana. (#21)

Montana's mineral treasure house, the Boulder Batholith forms. (#12)

A gigantic asteroid or meteorite impact in the Gulf of Mexico hastening the extinction of the dinosaurs. (#38)

The Fort Union Formation, containi vast coal deposits, forms in eastern Montana as the inla sea recedes. (#42)

65 million years ago

RI RIVER
NTRY

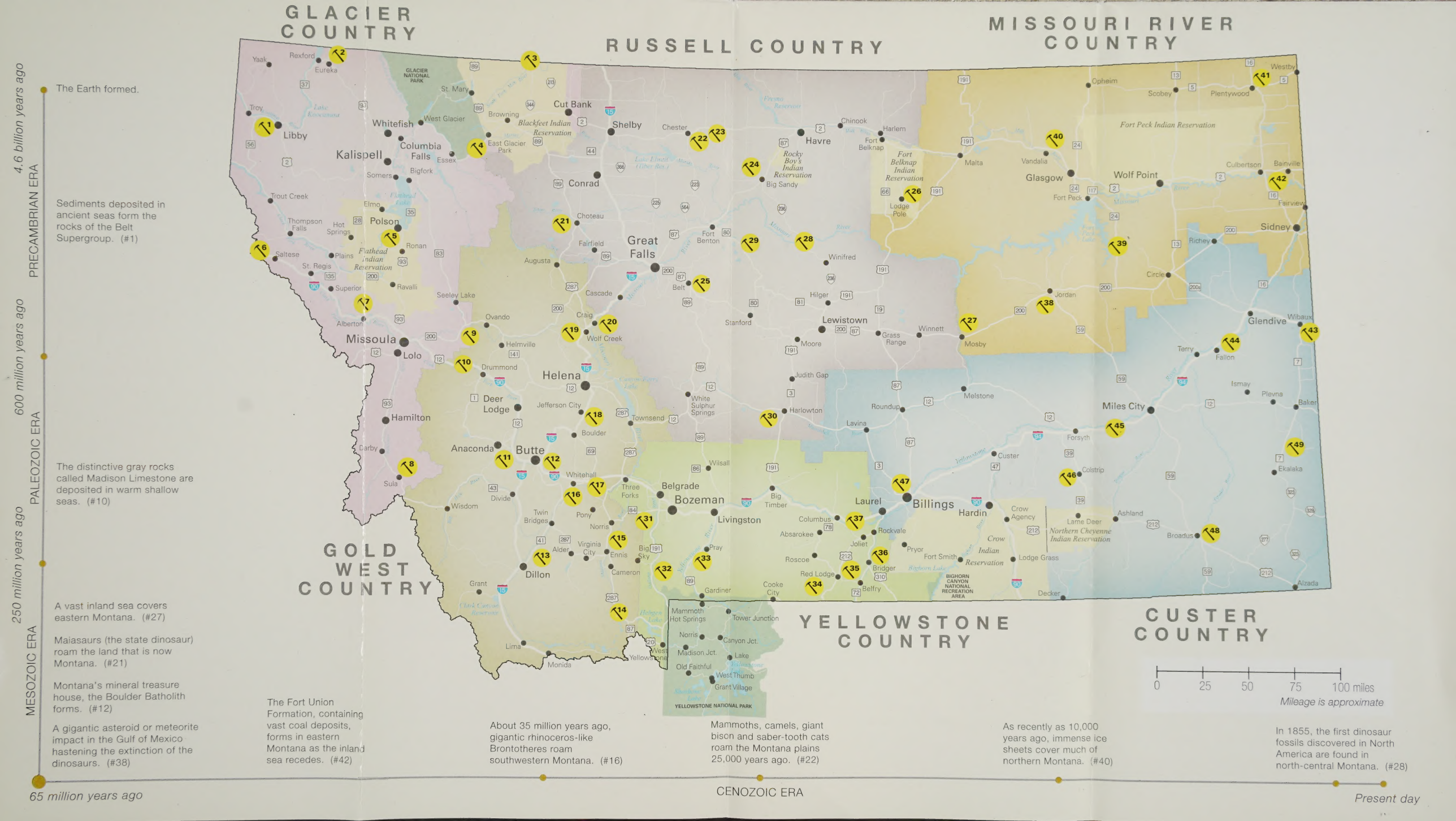
CUSTER COUNTRY

0 25 50 75 100 miles

Mileage is approximate

In 1855, the first dinosaur fossils discovered in North America are found in north-central Montana. (#28)

Present day


GLACIER COUNTRY
RUSSELL COUNTRY
MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY
GOLD WEST COUNTRY
YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY
CUSTER COUNTRY
4.6 billion years ago
The Earth formed.
PRECAMBRIAN ERA
Sediments deposited in ancient seas form the rocks of the Belt Supergroup. (#1)
600 million years ago
PALEOZOIC ERA
The distinctive gray rocks called Madison Limestone are deposited in warm shallow seas. (#10)
250 million years ago
MESOZOIC ERA
A vast inland sea covers eastern Montana. (#27)
Maiasaurs (the state dinosaur) roam the land that is now Montana. (#21)
Montana's mineral treasure house, the Boulder Batholith forms. (#12)
A gigantic asteroid or meteorite impact in the Gulf of Mexico hastening the extinction of the dinosaurs. (#38)
65 million years ago
The Fort Union Formation, containing vast coal deposits, forms in eastern Montana as the inland sea recedes. (#42)
About 35 million years ago, gigantic rhinoceros-like Brontotheres roam southwestern Montana. (#16)
Mammoths, camels, giant bison and saber-tooth cats roam the Montana plains 25,000 years ago. (#22)
As recently as 10,000 years ago, immense ice sheets cover much of northern Montana. (#40)
In 1855, the first dinosaur fossils discovered in North America are found in north-central Montana. (#28)
CENOZOIC ERA
Present day
0 25 50 75 100 miles
Mileage is approximate
Yaak
Rexford
Eureka
Troy
Libby
Whitefish
West Glacier
Kalispell
Columbia Falls
Essex
Somers
Bigfork
Trout Creek
Thompson Falls
Hot Springs
Polson
Elmo
Saltese
Plains
St. Regis
Ronan
Flathead Indian Reservation
Superior
Ravalli
Seeley Lake
Alberton
Missoula
Lolo
Ovando
Helmville
Drummond
Deer Lodge
Hamilton
Carby
Sula
Wisdom
Divide
Anaconda
Butte
Whitehall
Jefferson City
Townsend
Boulder
Helena
Three Forks
Belgrade
Bozeman
Wilsall
Twin Bridges
Pony
Norris
Alder
Virginia City
Ennis
Big Sky
Dillon
Cameron
Grant
Lima
Monida
Yellowstone
Gardiner
Mammoth Hot Springs
Tower Junction
Norris
Canyon Jct.
Madison Jct.
Lake
Old Faithful
West Thumb
Grant Village
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
Livingston
Big Timber
Pray
Columbus
Absarokee
Joliet
Roscoe
Red Lodge
Cooke City
Laurel
Billings
Hardin
Crow Agency
Crow Indian Reservation
Lodge Grass
Pryor
Fort Smith
Bridger
Belfry
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Decker
Rockvale
Glacier National Park
St. Mary
Browning
Blackfeet Indian Reservation
East Glacier Park
Cut Bank
Shelby
Chester
Conrad
Choteau
Fairfield
Augusta
Great Falls
Fort Benton
Belt
Cascade
Craig
Wolf Creek
Stanford
Chinook
Harlem
Havre
Fort Belknap
Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation
Big Sandy
Fort Belknap Indian Reservation
Lodge Pole
Winifred
Hilger
Lewistown
Grass Range
Moore
Judith Gap
White Sulphur Springs
Harlowton
Roundup
Lavina
Melstone
Winnett
Mosby
Jordan
Circle
Glasgow
Vandalia
Malta
Fort Peck Indian Reservation
Fort Peck
Wolf Point
Opheim
Scobey
Plentywood
Westby
Culbertson
Bainville
Fairview
Sidney
Richey
Glendive
Wibaux
Terry
Fallon
Ismay
Plevna
Baker
Miles City
Forsyth
Colstrip
Custer
Lame Deer
Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation
Ashland
Broadus
Ekalaka
Alzada

GLACIER COUNTRY

1. KOOTENAI FALLS AND THE BELT SUPERGROUP
US Highway 2, MP 21 • GPS Latitude: 48.4529 Longitude: -115.7695

The Kootenai River cascades over the purple rocks of the Precambrian Supergroup, which originated as sediments deposited in a shallow sea and on coastal mud-flats over one billion years ago. Ripple marks are still visible in the rocks today.

Photo: Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology

2. THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH
Montana Highway 37, MP 65
GPS Latitude: 48.9055 Longitude: -115.0999
A narrow 1,000-mile-long valley, called the Rocky Mountain Trench, stretches from Canada near the Alaska border through northwestern Montana to the St. Ignatius area. The valley began forming about 110 million years ago when two tectonic plates collided and then pulled apart from each other.

3. LANDSLIDE BUTTE
Montana Secondary 213, MP 39
GPS Latitude: 48.9975 Longitude: -112.7886
Located in the fossil-rich Two Medicine Formation, Landslide Butte contains the largest dinosaur nesting grounds known to science, covering nearly six square miles in badlands near the Milk River.

4. THE LEWIS OVERTHRUST FAULT
US Highway 2, MP 198 Summit rest area
GPS Latitude: 48.3177 Longitude: -113.3531

The Lewis Overthrust, which includes most of Glacier National Park, slid to this area along a fault more than 50 million years ago, from its original location more than 50 miles to the west.

Photo: Kristi Hager

5. THE BEAVER'S DAM
US Highway 93, MP 57 • GPS Latitude: 47.6672 Longitude: -114.1074
Long ago, according to the Pend d'Oreille Indians, White Beaver built a dam across the Flathead River and created an enormous lake. The Wolf Brothers breached the dam and the water flooded out, leaving only Flathead Lake.

6. A LOST WORLD: PRECAMBRIAN BELT ROCKS
I-90, MP 4, Dena Mora rest area
GPS Latitude: 47.4193 Longitude: -115.6287 (east-bound)
Latitude: 47.4198 Longitude: -115.6255 (west-bound)
Over a billion years ago, the Earth was a desolate planet covered by vast oceans that teemed with blue-green algae. The sediments that accumulated in the oceans eventually became the fine-grained purple and yellow rocks visible along interstate 90 in western Montana.

7. GLACIAL LAKE MISSOULA
I-90, MP 72 (east-bound)/MP 73 (west-bound), Alberton parking area
GPS Latitude: 47.0126 Longitude: -114.5429 (east-bound)
Latitude: 47.0210 Longitude: -114.5200 (west-bound)
Much of western Montana was once submerged under Glacial Lake Missoula. For hundreds of years, the ice dam that created the lake broke and refilled, causing huge floods in Montana, Idaho and Washington.

8. MOUNTAINS ON THE MOVE: THE BITTERROOT AND SAPPHIRE MOUNTAINS
US Highway 93, MP 13 • GPS Latitude: 45.8363 Longitude: -113.9811
Colliding tectonic plates caused mountain ranges to form in western Montana, and occasionally immense slabs of rock broke off and slid away. About 80 million years ago, the Sapphire Mountains broke off from the Bitterroots and formed an entirely new mountain range.

9. SOUVENIRS OF THE ICE AGES
Montana Highway 200, MP 32, Clearwater Junction rest area
GPS Latitude: 47.0023 Longitude: -113.3690
Glaciers sculpted western Montana's mountains during the ice ages. When the glaciers melted, they left behind huge piles of gravel and ponds of water. The area surrounding the Clearwater Junction bears the scars of the ice ages.

GOLD WEST COUNTRY

10. MADISON LIMESTONE AND THE GARNET RANGE
I-90, MP 143 (east-bound), Bearmouth rest area
GPS Latitude: 46.7037 Longitude: -113.3382 (east-bound)
I-90 Frontage Road (old US 10), MP 10, ten miles west of Drummond
GPS Latitude: 46.7204 Longitude: -113.3163

The spectacular gray cliffs along the highway near Drummond are composed of Madison Limestone, a rock formation made up of the fossilized remains of countless marine creatures deposited in a shallow sea about 350 million years ago.

Photo: Kristi Hager

11. THE ANACONDA-PINTLER AND FLINT CREEK MOUNTAINS
Montana Highway 1, MP 1, Anaconda rest area
GPS Latitude: 46.0942 Longitude: -112.8096
The rugged mountains on the west side of the Deer Lodge Valley formed more than 50 million years ago when two tectonic plates collided west of Montana. Gold was discovered in the mountains in the 1850s.

12. THE BOULDER BATHOLITH AND THE RICHEST HILL ON EARTH
I-15, MP 130 (south-bound)
GPS Latitude: 45.9911 Longitude: -112.4752
Butte is called the Mining City. It owes its existence to the Boulder Batholith, a vast block of granite rich in copper, gold, silver and zinc that formed about 74 million years ago.

13. BEAVERHEAD ROCK
Montana Highway 41, MP 13
GPS Latitude: 45.3657 Longitude: -112.4738
Beaverhead Rock is one of the most famous landmarks in southwestern Montana. Made of Madison Limestone, the rock has been a guidepost for Native Americans, explorers, prospectors and motorists for generations.

14. EARTHQUAKES!
US Highway 287, MP 1 • GPS Latitude: 44.8279 Longitude: -111.4677

On August 17, 1959, a powerful earthquake caused a mountainside to slide off, blocking the Madison River and creating Quake Lake. Today, you can still see scars of the slide, as well as trees and houses poking up out of the lake.

Photo: Donnie Sexton

15. THE SHINING MOUNTAINS
US Highway 287, MP 49, Lion's Park
GPS Latitude: 45.3487 Longitude: -111.7228
The spectacular Madison Range began to slowly rise along a fault—one that is still active—about 50 million years ago. Glaciers and landslides carved the peaks into the fantastic shapes we see today.

16. A NEW WORLD: TERTIARY MAMMALS
Montana Highway 55, MP 7 • GPS Latitude: 45.8123 Longitude: -112.1682
About 35 million years ago, many strange and bizarre looking animals roamed the grasslands of southwestern Montana, including double-horned, rhinoceros-like brontotheres, mammoths, three-toed horses, camels, saber-tooth tigers and pigs the size of hippos.

17. A PASSAGE THROUGH TIME: THE JEFFERSON RIVER CANYON
Montana Highway 2, Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park Group Use Center

GPS Latitude: 45.8238
Longitude: -111.8585
Montana Highway 2 passes through the Jefferson River canyon, where you can see rocks spanning over a billion years of the state's geologic history.

Photo: Susan Vuke

18. ELKHORN VOLCANOES AND THE BOULDER BATHOLITH
I-15, MP 177 (north-bound)/MP 178 (south-bound), Jefferson City rest area
GPS Latitude: 46.4066 Longitude: -112.0130 (north-bound)
Latitude: 46.4158 Longitude: -112.0060 (south-bound)
About 75 million years ago, volcanoes in the Elkhorn Mountains violently erupted, throwing debris and ash into the air for hundreds of miles. The ash buried hundreds of dinosaur nests at Egg Mountain (see description for marker #21), and the roots of the volcanoes formed the Boulder Batholith (see description for marker #12).

19. A PERFECT DEFILE: THE PRICKLY PEAR CANYON
I-15, MP 222 • GPS Latitude: 46.9533 Longitude: -112.1080 (north-bound)
Latitude: 46.9544 Longitude: -112.1074 (south-bound)
Nestled deep in the Big Belt Mountains is one of Montana's most spectacular canyons. Its steep, rugged walls are composed of Precambrian Belt rocks (see description for marker #6) and mudstones called Spokane Shale.

20. CLIFFS HIGH AND STEEP: THE ADEL MOUNTAINS VOLCANICS
I-15, MP 239, Dearborn rest area
GPS Latitude: 47.1311 Longitude: -111.9008 (north-bound)
Latitude: 47.1326 Longitude: -111.9016 (south-bound)
Travelers through the Missouri River canyon are awestruck by the weird and wonderful rock formations of the volcanic Adel Mountains. The dark gray rock formations are the products of volcanic activity that occurred about 75 million years ago.

RUSSELL COUNTRY

21. EGG MOUNTAIN
US Highway 287, MP 58 • GPS Latitude: 47.7221 Longitude: -112.2319
At Egg Mountain, generations of Maiasaura, Montana's state dinosaur, and carnivorous Troodon nested and raised their families. They left behind one of the largest caches of dinosaur eggs, embryos and baby dinosaur fossils known in North America.

22. A PLEISTOCENE WONDERLAND
US Highway 2, MP 321 • GPS Latitude: 48.5124 Longitude: -110.9751
Twenty-five thousand years ago, the Great Plains supported an abundance of animals, many of which have long since become extinct, including giant ground sloths, mammoths and saber-tooth cats.

23. THE SWEET GRASS HILLS
US Highway 2, MP 328 • GPS Latitude: 48.5455 Longitude: -110.8558
The Sweet Grass Hills formed about 50 million years ago when magma pushed to the surface and arched up overlying sedimentary layers. Called "Katoyisiks" by the Blackfeet Indians, the Sweet Grass Hills are important to the tribe's history.

24. AN ISLAND ON THE PLAINS: THE BEARS PAW MOUNTAINS
US Highway 87, MP 79, Big Sandy City Park
GPS Latitude: 48.1748 Longitude: -110.1169

The tree-covered Bears Paw Mountains are one of several spectacular igneous mountain ranges on Montana's Great Plains. Magma cooled to form laccoliths, which look like gigantic stone blisters with stone walls, called dikes, radiating away from them.

Photo: John Lambing

25. MOUNTAINS, BELT BUTTE AND THE GREAT FALLS COAL FIELD
Montana 200/US 89, MP 71, Armington rest area
GPS Latitude: 47.3499 Longitude: -110.8960
The rugged mountain ranges on Montana's central plains are mostly igneous intrusions that punched up through the earth's crust about 50 million years ago. Belt Butte is visible from the highway. It gave its name to the community of Belt, Belt Creek and the Big and Little Belt Mountains.

26. THE LITTLE ROCKY MOUNTAINS
Community Center, Lodgepole, Fort Belknap Reservation
GPS Latitude: 48.0342 Longitude: -108.5333
The Little Rocky Mountains look like a colossal giant's fortress on the northern Great Plains. The mountains are composed of different kinds of rocks clustered against an igneous dome that formed about 50 million years ago.

27. BEARPAW SHALE AND THE INLAND SEAWAY
Montana Highway 200, MP 158, Mosby rest area
GPS Latitude: 46.9945 Longitude: -107.8880
Black Bearpaw Shale can be seen along the highways in central Montana. The shale formed from sediments deposited in an ancient ocean that once existed here. It contains the fossils of marine creatures, including squid, oysters and carnivorous reptiles called mosasaurs.

28. THE JUDITH RIVER FORMATION
Montana Secondary 236, MP 47
GPS Latitude: 47.7359 Longitude: -109.6269
In 1855, geologist Ferdinand Hayden found dinosaur fossils in the Judith Formation on the upper Missouri River in Montana. The fossils were of a duck-billed dinosaur and were among the first dinosaur fossils discovered in North America.

29. SQUARE BUTTE AND SHONKIN SAG
Montana Highway 80, MP 22
GPS Latitude: 47.6804 Longitude: -110.3447
Square Butte originated in Montana's violent geological past. The igneous rocks that form the butte were left after the enclosing sedimentary rocks eroded away. Shonkin Sag is a famous glacial meltwater channel left over from the ice ages.

30. PALEOCENE MAMMALS AND ALBERT SILBERLING
US Highway 12, MP 95 • GPS Latitude: 46.4463 Longitude: -109.9386

Sixty million years ago, central Montana teemed with all kinds of strange and exotic mammals, including a small squirrel-like animal called Ptilodus. Albert Silberling discovered fossils of it and other species of ancient mammals in the Harlowton area.

Photo: Kristi Hager

YELLOWSTONE COUNTRY

31. SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS
Montana Highway 84, MP 27 • GPS Latitude: 45.6711 Longitude: -111.2308
The Gallatin Valley is surrounded by mountains that began forming more than 55 million years ago. Tectonic plates collided and pushed up the scenic mountain ranges where you can hike, camp and ski today.

32. LONE MOUNTAIN
US Highway 191, MP 47 • GPS Latitude: 45.2638 Longitude: -111.2538

Geologic processes have created a winter wonderland for skiers on Big Sky's Lone Mountain. Although it may resemble a volcano, the mountain is made mostly of sedimentary rock. Glaciers and landslides sculpted the mountain into its present appearance.

Photo: Glenniss Indreland

33. HEPBURN'S MESA
US Highway 89, MP 24, Emigrant rest area
GPS Latitude: 45.2950 Longitude: -110.8349
Native Americans drove bison over Hepburn's Mesa for thousands of years. The mesa is capped by an igneous rock called basalt that flowed out of Yellowstone National Park two million years ago. Paleontologists discovered fossils of primitive horses in the area.

34. THE BEARTOOTH PLATEAU
US Highway 212, MP 69 • GPS Latitude: 45.1776 Longitude: -109.2476
The rugged Beartooth Mountains contain some of the oldest exposed rocks in Montana at three billion years. The rocks also contain one of the world's major deposits of precious and rare metals, including platinum, palladium and chromium.

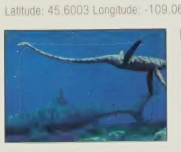
35. BLACK GOLD
Montana Secondary 308, MP 5
GPS Latitude: 45.1585 Longitude: -109.1891
The rolling hills near Bearcreek hide vast deposits of high-grade coal. Ancient decaying vegetation was heated and compressed by overlying rocks and dirt to form coal. The Smith Mine Disaster in this coal field killed 74 men in 1943.

36. THE PRYOR MOUNTAINS AND RAPTOR COUNTRY
US Highway 310, MP 29, Bridger rest area
GPS Latitude: 45.3380 Longitude: -108.9161

One of nature's deadliest and most terrifying hunters roamed south-central Montana millions of years ago during the Cretaceous Period. Called Deinonychus, the dinosaur was intelligent, had razor-sharp claws on its hands and feet, and hunted in packs.

Illustration: Norman Dwyer

37. THE GREAT INLAND OCEAN
I-90, MP 419, Columbus rest area
GPS Latitude: 45.5981 Longitude: -109.0648 (east-bound)
Latitude: 45.6003 Longitude: -109.0659 (west-bound)



Eastern Montana was once submerged under an inland sea. It was home to many kinds of prehistoric monsters, including long-necked plesiosaurs and snakelike mosasaurs, that fed on the abundant marine life in the sea.

Illustration: Douglas Henderson

MISSOURI RIVER COUNTRY

38. EVIDENCE OF A CATASTROPHIC EVENT
Montana Highway 200, MP 213, Jordan
GPS Latitude: 47.3126 Longitude: -106.9092
Millions of years ago, a gigantic meteorite or asteroid struck the Earth and may have hastened the extinction of the dinosaurs. Evidence of that cataclysm along with dinosaur fossils can be found in the rocks of the Hell Creek Formation.

39. HELL CREEK FORMATION
Montana Highway 24, MP 41 • GPS Latitude: 47.9107 Longitude: -106.1794

Dinosaurs once ruled the Earth. Fossils of fierce Tyrannosaurus rex, three-horned Triceratops and many other dinosaur species can be found in the rocks of the Hell Creek Formation in eastern Montana.

Illustration: Douglas Henderson

40. THE ICE AGES
US Highway 2, MP 527, Vandalia rest area
GPS Latitude: 48.3699 Longitude: -106.7927

Much of northeastern Montana was buried under a massive ice sheet during the ice ages. For 60,000 years the ice scoured Montana's landscape, leaving behind piles of gravel and boulders that now litter the Great Plains.

Illustration: Douglas Henderson

41. THE FORT UNION FORMATION AND THE ICE AGE
Junction Montana Highways 5 and 16, Sheridan County Fairgrounds
GPS Latitude: 48.7711 Longitude: -104.5402
Much of eastern Montana is underlain by sedimentary rocks of the Fort Union Formation. Sand and silt carried by rivers from mountains to the west were interbedded with swampland vegetation to form vast coal seams.

42. COAL, OIL AND NATURAL GAS
US Highway 2, MP 646, Culbertson rest area
GPS Latitude: 48.1483 Longitude: -104.5053
See description for marker #41.

CUSTER COUNTRY

43. WELCOME TO DINOSAUR COUNTRY!
I-94, MP 242, Wibaux rest area • GPS Latitude: 46.9901 Longitude: -104.1791

Few places in the world have as many dinosaur fossils as Montana. Paleontologists have discovered 75 species of dinosaurs in Montana, more than any other state in the United States. The awesome Tyrannosaurus rex was an early and infamous resident of the state.

Photo: Museum of the Rockies

44. RED-CAPPED HILLS OF EASTERN MONTANA
I-94, MP 192, Bad Route rest area • GPS Latitude: 46.8986 Longitude: -105.0194

For at least four million years, lightning, spontaneous combustion and range fires ignited underground coal, seams in eastern Montana. The fires sometimes burned for hundreds of years, cooking the rocks around the coal and transforming it into red rock called clinker.

Photo: Kristi Hager

45. HELL CREEK FORMATION
I-94, MP 112, Hathaway rest area
GPS Latitude: 46.2613 Longitude: -106.2796 (east-bound)
Latitude: 46.2691 Longitude: -106.3064 (west-bound)
See description for marker #39.

46. THE POWDER RIVER BASIN AND TONGUE RIVER SANDSTONE
Fountain Park adjacent to the city hall, Colstrip
GPS Latitude: 45.8792 Longitude: -106.6277

Colstrip is located at the northern end of the Powder River Basin, an enormous shallow bowl in southeastern Montana that is rich in coal. The basin formed when the Rocky Mountains and Black Hills arose 65 million years ago.

Photo: Kristi Hager

47. THE SHORE OF AN ANCIENT SEA
Montana Highway 3, one mile east of the airport entrance
GPS Latitude: 45.7988 Longitude: -108.5081

The sandstone rimrocks that overlook the city of Billings were once barrier islands along an ancient seashore. Occasionally a hiker will find fossilized shark teeth in the rims from the time when sharks hunted in the sea.

Photo: Kristi Hager

48. HELL CREEK FORMATION
US Highway 212, MP 81, Broadus rest area
GPS Latitude: 45.4217 Longitude: -105.3970
See description for marker #39.

49. MEDICINE ROCKS
Montana Highway 7, MP 11 • GPS Latitude: 46.0435 Longitude: -104.4578
Medicine Rocks State Park was once a sea of sand dunes. About 61 million years ago, a now vanished river deposited fine-grained sands along its shores. Coastal winds blew the sand into dunes that eventually compacted into soft sandstone.

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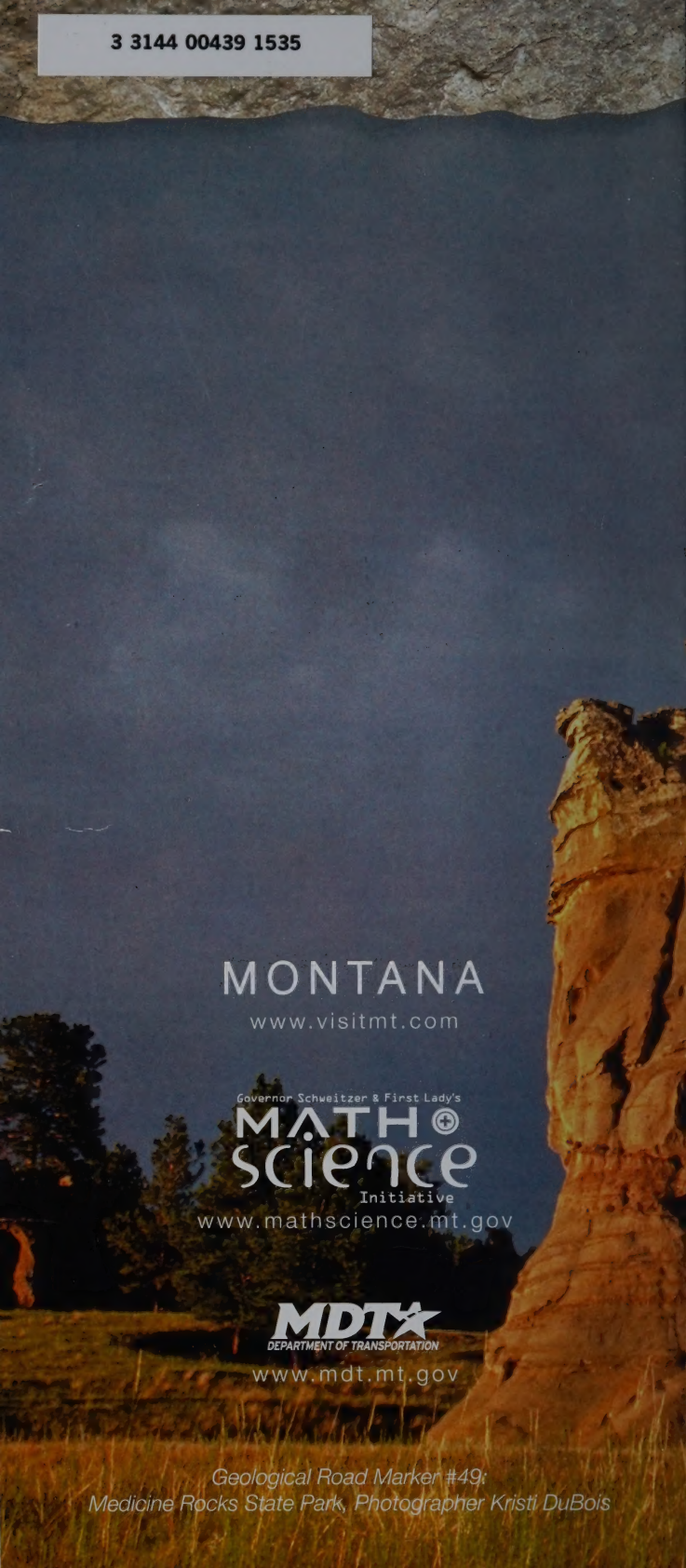

MONTANA

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MATH & Science Initiative

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Geological Road Marker #49:
Medicine Rocks State Park, Photographer Kristi DuBois